



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Spirit, Dedication, and Determination

It was a bright morning in April 2006, and I woke, as Lynne Twist says in her book *Soul of Money*, "Knowing I had not had enough sleep." It seemed I was immersed on all fronts in scarcity, particularly in raising funds to pay for the 2006 Women Leaders for the World (WLW) program. We had issued our acceptance letters to the women who would be attending, and we all had made a pledge to generate the necessary finances.

As I opened my email inbox, I was attracted to a message from Mariam Mukalazi, a Muganda woman from the Lake Victoria region of Uganda. She had been nominated to participate in the WLW program as the head of the country's Tropical Farmers Network. Her application had outlined her meager circumstances - the mother of two who had left a domestic violence situation, a devoted church member, and a community activist. As all other participants, she had been asked to contribute at least a small amount to her transportation costs.

Now Mariam was writing with great excitement about the coming program. She had a plan to raise money for her contribution -- she was going to sell the three cows that she had inherited from her grandmother! Here before my eyes was a woman willing to sell a major part of her resources for the chance to take her leadership abilities to the next level. She had the faith of her convictions that this sacrifice would make a difference in her life, the lives of her boys, and the lives of many in her community.

So who was I to live in scarcity? How could GWLN be worthy of having Mariam with us?

We wrote to Mariam - "Do not sell your cows!" We re-doubled our fundraising efforts, including a very successful auction event. We met our challenge because of the inspiration of this woman from thousands of miles away.

So, today, we swim in a widening pool of scarcity. When I begin to be consumed by the gloom and doom, I have but to remember Mariam and her spirit, dedication, and determination. I offer this story as a reminder to us all that we can be Mariams - whether we are men or women. We live surrounded by sufficiency and even plenty. It is through the richness in our spirits and our celebration of the wonders of humanity that we can rise above all else.

By the way, there are not always fairy tale endings to such stories. Mariam tried valiantly for two years to obtain a travel visa to the U.S. and never made it to our program. She will be forever a member of the Global Women's Leadership Network.



Thank You for Your Support

Despite the current economic times, GWLN is determined to continue to build the leadership capacity of women from around the world through its premier program - Women Leaders for the World - during the summer of 2009. We have already had inquiries from and nominations of outstanding candidates from Egypt to India to Ethiopia.

To fulfill this commitment, we need your help to raise the funds for their airfares, room, board, and tuition. Think about the impact that these women are having. Sunisha now leads Room to Read throughout Southeast Asia. Sizani of South Africa has spoken out about women's land rights in her own country, China, and Mexico. Jin and Sarah are leading young women's programs in Pakistan. Think about the impact that even a few dollars can have on the world.

In honor of Mariam (see Director's Corner), we created a symbolic gift certificate called "Cow Shares." It even includes a photo of one of Mariam's cows. For a donation of \$25, we will mail you one of our certificates - to keep or to give to someone on your holiday list. You are welcome to contribute larger amounts and to ask for more certificates.

Here are the ways to send your contributions to GWLN:

- Send a check to GWLN, c/o Linda Alepin, Leavey School of Business, Lucas Hall Room 316C, Santa Clara University, 500 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95053. Please make your check payable to **Santa Clara University - GWLN**. Also specify how many Cow Shares you are requesting for amounts over \$25.
- Log on to this Santa Clara University address: www.applyweb.com/public/contribute?scugiv. Fill in the top portion of the page. At the bottom of the page when asked to specify a designee, select Leavey School of Business and under "Fund" select "Global Women's Leadership Network." If you choose this method, please also email Bonita Banducci at banducci@genderwork.com with your physical address. She has graciously volunteered to send out Cow Shares.

We thank those of you who have supported us in the past and invite new donors to join us in our quest to create a new future for humanity by fueling global leadership to transform communities, organizations, and the world.



Featured WLW Graduates

WLW Grad Wins 2008 Global Vision Award

3 Sisters Adventure Trekking, founded by Lucky Chhetri, a 2006 WLW graduate from Nepal, has won the *Travel + Leisure* 2008 Global Vision Award in the category of Economic Development. Lucky and her two sisters, Dicky and Nicky, started the company in 1994 after women staying in their guesthouse complained of poor treatment by male porters. The company trains local women to guide female travelers—a trailblazing business model in a country where women have limited economic opportunity. To read more, visit

www.travelandleisure.com/articles/2008-global-vision-awards/.

Lucky's journey as a social entrepreneur began in 1993 when she founded Empowering Women in Nepal and began challenging hundreds of years of stereotypes of poverty, ignorance, and isolation for rural women. Beginning with training women as guides for Nepal's booming adventure tourism industry, she has expanded her vision to include microfinance programs and alumni networks that support women in establishing development projects and taking leadership roles in their communities.

Lucky was elected to the Ashoka Fellowship in 2004, a prestigious appointment that recognizes the work of social entrepreneurs worldwide.